

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A method of treating or preventing *H. pylori* infection in humans or animals comprising the step of administering a molecule capable of inhibiting the growth or survival of *H. pylori* in vivo according to claim 5 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to a human or animal in need of such treatment, wherein the identification of said molecule comprises:

- (a) contacting a parental *Helicobacter* with said molecule in a biological sample;
- (b) testing and comparing the response to extracellular pH and the sensitivity to acidity of the parental strain to a strain deficient in Urel and/or of a Urel deficient strain complemented with a plasmid carrying *urel* in the presence or absence of said active molecule; and
- (c) selecting said molecule displaying a differential effect on the parental strain as compared to the Urel deficient strain.

7. (original) A method of preventing or treating *H. pylori* infection comprising the step of administering a molecule capable of inhibiting the growth or survival of *H. pylori* in vivo to a human or animal in need of such treatment.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

8. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the molecule is transported inside the *H. pylori* cell due to a high affinity for Urel.

9. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel by inhibiting its properties in *H. pylori* resistance to acidity.

10. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel by inhibiting its properties as a transporter.

11. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel by inhibiting an interaction between Urel and other *H. pylori* proteins.

12. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the molecule is capable of intracellular inhibition of urease in *H. pylori*.

13-24. (canceled)

25. (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel protein by directly binding to Urel.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
[www.finnegan.com](http://www.finnegan.com)

26. (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein the molecule specifically inhibits Urel transporter properties either in ammonia export or in urea export or import.
27. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the molecule is capable of specifically inhibiting an interaction between Urel and other *H. pylori* proteins.
28. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the molecule is capable of intracellular inhibition of *H. pylori* urease.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
[www.finnegan.com](http://www.finnegan.com)